

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A method for installing software on a hardware device by an agent which resides on the hardware device comprising:

a communication network gateway sending a message to an agent residing on the hardware device informing the agent of a command to install software on the hardware device on which it resides;

an agent verifying the validity of the message sent to it with the communication network gateway;

the communication network gateway transmitting an indication regarding the validity of the command;

the agent receiving the command to install software on the hardware device if the indication transmitted from the gateway indicates that the command is valid;

the communication network gateway initiating a locking signal regarding using pre-determined resources of the hardware device to execute the command to install software on the hardware device;

the agent requesting files from a file server via the communication network gateway required for completion of the received installation command;

the file server sending the files required for completion of the received installation command to the agent via the communication network gateway;

the agent installing the files sent to it on the hardware device upon which it resides in response to the received installation command; and

the communication network gateway removing the locking signal associated with using the pre-determined resources of the hardware device to execute the command to install software in a hardware device after the files have been installed.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the locking signal comprises a device resource locking signal that prevents the gateway from sending a second command relating to pre-determined resources of the hardware device in use by the agent installing software.

3. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising the communication gateway entering identification information of the hardware device and the pre-determined resources of the hardware device required to execute the command to install software on the hardware device in a table within a system database.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the table within the system database operates using uniqueness constraints for hardware device identification information contained therein.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the locking signal comprises a uniqueness constraints signal.

6. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the table within the system database contains uniqueness constraints regarding resource identification information contained therein.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the locking signal comprises a uniqueness constraint signal.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
the agent installing the files according to an instruction set.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the instruction set comprises the received installation command.

10. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the instruction set comprises a command queue.

11. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the instruction set resides in a network database.

12. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the instruction set resides in a network file server.

13. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~controlled~~ controlling software commands executed on ~~the~~ a hardware device by an agent, comprising the steps of:

the agent receiving a software command from a control network, which is part of a command queue;

the agent executing the software command on a hardware device;

determining resources on the hardware device currently in use;

preventing, by a locking device, a software command from the command queue from being executed upon the device if a resource it requires on the device for execution of the command is in use; and

repeating the steps of receiving, executing, and preventing by the agent until all commands of the command queue have been executed.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the agent resides on the hardware device.

15. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the step of determining comprises determining all hardware device resources currently in use.

16. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the step of preventing comprises locking a group of resources on the hardware device.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the step of preventing comprises locking all resources on the hardware device.

18. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the step of preventing comprises preventing the execution of software commands requiring one of the group of locked resources.

19. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the step of preventing comprises locking a single resource on the hardware device.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the step of preventing comprises
preventing the execution of software commands requiring the single locked resource.

21. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the step of determining comprises verifying the presence of a resource identification number within a system database.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein each hardware device resource contained within the table of the system database is constrained by a uniqueness constraint.

23. (New) A method for installing software on a hardware device by an agent which resides on the hardware device, comprising:

sending a message to an agent residing on the hardware device informing the agent of a command to install software on the hardware device on which it resides;

in response to said message, sending an acknowledgement to a communication network gateway;

determining whether the acknowledgement relates to a valid message, and if so transmitting a command from the gateway to the agent to install software on the hardware device;

initiating a locking signal regarding resources of the hardware device that are used to execute the command to install software on the hardware device;

providing files from a file server to the agent via the communication gateway;

installing the files on the hardware device by means of said agent; and

removing the locking signal after the files have been installed.

24. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the locking signal comprises a device resource locking signal that prevents the gateway from sending a second command relating to said resources of the hardware device.

25. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein said locking signal is initiated and removed by said communication gateway.

26. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the locking signal comprises an entry in a table within a database that operates using uniqueness constraints for hardware device identification information contained therein.

27. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the locking signal comprises a uniqueness constraints signal.